THE INVENTION CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of manufacturing cookware comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a bonded composite sheet of material having at least one layer of an aluminum or aluminum alloy material;

(b) forming a cookware vessel of a desired configuration having said aluminum or aluminum alloy exposed at least at an edge portion of said formed cookware vessel; and

(c) treating at least said exposed edge of aluminum or aluminum alloy by a micro arc oxidation process to form an Al_2O_3 coating on at least said exposed edge of aluminum or aluminum alloy whereby chemical corrosion/erosion of said exposed edge by caustic cleaning agents is prevented.

2. Cookware made according to the method of claim 1.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the bonded composite sheet of material includes at least one layer of stainless steel.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the method includes the step of masking the stainless steel prior to said treating step.

5. Cookware comprising a bonded composite metal sheet including at least one layer of an aluminum material and at least one layer of a stainless steel material wherein an exposed edge of the aluminum material extending around an outer perimeter of the cookware carries an Al_2O_3 coating applied thereto by a micro arc oxidation process.